

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER BRYON BUNITSKY (BB), P# 6541

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. SCLIMENTI (MS), P# 6239, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1634 hours. Also present are Detective K. Ploense (KP), P# 6269, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Ramirez (MR), P# 9057.

MS: This is Detective M. Sclimenti P# 6239 with the Force Inve- Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Officer Bryon Bunitsky P# 6541. His call sign is 3-Ocean-44. His date of hire is [REDACTED]. He works out of the Enterprise Area Command as a patrol officer. His RDOs are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and his hours are 1500 to 0100. His vehicle number was 10806. This interview is reference to an officer involved mass shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017 at 2208 hours in the area of the Mandalay Bay Casino located at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard,

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Today's date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1634 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters located at 400 South Martin Luther King Building C, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. Also present is Detective Ploense P# 6269 and PPA Representative Michael Ramirez P# 9057. Bryon, are you aware this interview is being recorded?

BB: Yes.

MS: Okay, so before we get started you are currently wearing the standard LVMPD uniform. Is that correct?

BB: Correct.

MS: And is this the same uniform that you were wearing on the night of the incident?

BB: Yes.

MS: Okay, will you please describe it to me?

BB: A long sleeve tan shirt, Metro patches on each sleeve, uh, standard badge, nameplate, um, cop chain around my neck with my radio, standard duty belt, uh, you know, Taser, baton, magazines, handcuff, uh, body worn camera, gun, and, um, tourniquet and - well and the body worn camera, uh, on and off switch on my gun belt.

MS: Okay and you're currently, uh, you carry a Glock 21.44 -.45 caliber with a serial number [REDACTED]?

BB: Correct.

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MS: Okay, so let's just focus your attention on October 1, um, 2017, the incident that we're here for. Uh, just in your own words just tell me exactly, you know, how you learned about the call and what details you learned and what happened.

BB: Okay, um, I was, um, 3-Ocean-44. I was with Michael Thiel, um, Officer Thiel who's - was 3-Ocean-55. We were on a domestic, um, in Ocean-4 and we heard over the radio that there was an active shooter announced on, uh, CCAC so Mike turned his radio over to CCAC. We were listening. Um, there were shots fired. People were down. We heard officers being shot. Um, so, um, and then Michael Thiel - Officer Thiel received a text cause his brother is Officer Rob Thiel who works CCAC. So he got a text and he said, "Hey, I think your brother might've been shot." So Mike said, "Hey, Bryon, I gotta go." So I said, "All right, I'll go with you." Um, we called, um, Sergeant, um, Skinny who the - my sergeant went home that night and I didn't take his acting call sign 'cause he left at, like, 8:00 'cause he wasn't feeling good. Um, so s- uh, Sergeant Skenadore was in charge. So called him and said, "Hey, we're gonna go down there." And he said, "Okay, uh, do you have a rifle?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "All right, go - go 'cause they need guys with rifles." So him and I, uh, notified dispatch over the air, "Hey, we're in route," and, uh, that I have a rifle. Um, we were in route code and we went from Cactus - down to Cactus all the way down to 15, 15, um, to Russell, and got off at Russell and the Boulevard. Parked, I got out and donned my gear, uh, locked the cars. And at this time we're still listening to the radio traffic, you know, shots fired, um, multiple victims, multiple officers down. Um, so I knew not to stay, uh, on the Boulevard in front on the north s- or the east

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side of the Boulevard. So we ran down the Boulevard, um, on the sidewalk at the Mandalay Bay, came up by the Beach entrance, ran all the way up to, um, the entrance by the Beach. Um, then came into Mandalay Bay through I guess the southeast corner you could say kinda, um, the big glass doors where they have the American flag kinda by the convention center. Uh, we ran through there, um, kept running all the way through the bottom of the hotel. A lot of people we running out yelling and screaming. Um, then we made our way to the ma- uh, the - not valet but the - the main part of the hotel where guests, uh, hotel check-in, all that stuff. Um, then I saw, uh, SWAT Officer Levi from SWAT coming towards me. Um, and he said, "Hey, uh, you guys, let's go. We're going up to the - up to the 32nd floor." I heard - we all - we all heard intel on the radio while we were running. Suspect's on the 32nd floor. Um, so, uh, we got in the elevator, went up to the 32 second floor. I mean, the elevators didn't work at first. Took a little while to get somebody to make them work 'cause they shut them down for fire code but, um, got them working, went up to 32nd floor, came out, got to the hallway. Uh, we looked down the hallway. You could see the - the double - double doors coming out, um, all the way at the end. You could see there's bullet holes in them. Um, there was blood on the floor from I think it was a security guard got shot. Um, so we decided - Levi said, "Hey, I got an idea. Let's go." We went back in the elevator down to the 31st floor. Went all the way down the hallway, went out to the fire escape, came back up 32nd floor right next to the suspect's room on the left side. So if you're looking at the suspect's room, left side. Uh, we posted up in the stairwell and it was, you know, I don't know how long it was,

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10 minutes, maybe 15 minutes. Uh, Levi was talking. Uh, he - he called I think the, uh, SWAT lieutenant, said, "Hey, we have the, uh, room. I got," and he looked back. He's like, "I got, like, five or six officers with me. They got rifles. Uh, we're gonna breach the door. Uh, I'll call you later. Bye." Um, something to that affect, you know, and, uh, he - we got him his breach bag, started pulling stuff out, put it - set it up. And, uh, said, uh, "All right, we'll go and breach the door. Breach - breach - breach." Boom, blew it. Um, they went in and the - when I say they I know, um, K9 - K9 Officer Newton was there. Um, I can't remember who else was there. Um, a couple guys went in. Uh, I could hear them yelling, clearing, and clearing. Um, and then they said, uh, "Watch, we have another door that's rigged with wires and cameras and possibly a gun." Um, so I posted up with my rifle on that door which was actually across the hall. So if - if his door was - if you're facing that - if you're facing the suspect's door, um, it was to the right. So I posted up, watched that door. Um, then I heard him say, "Breach - breach - breach." They - they blew that door. Um, there was yelling, commotion. Um, I heard, uh, a three round burst of gunfire and then I went in. I let go of that door, came into the main room, uh, the suspect's room. Um, at that time, you know, it was a little smoky from the - the breach so I didn't see a whole lot. You know, I saw a couple of guns, uh, rifles scattered, um, at the main windows. Um, and then I heard, um, I looked up and I saw, uh, Newt, uh, Officer or K9 Officer Newton -- I call him Newt, um, coming out and Levi coming out saying, "Everybody, um, everybody out. Let's get this, uh, scene secured. Um, we need two - two uniform officers posted up at the door. Nobody in, nobody out." Um, so then I

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backed out of the room. Um, and then that's when, uh, over the radio they were saying more shots fired at New York, New York, uh, and someplace else. So I was like, "All right, well we're done here. There's nothing to do here." So that's when Mike and I - Officer Thiel, um, I said, "Mike, let's go. There's more shots fired. We need to go." So I started running down the hallway and then I saw, uh, Billy Marks and a couple other guys from SWAT running towards me. And, uh, I told Billy what happened. He said, "All right, go help out, uh, elsewhere." And I never looked back.

MS: Okay and what gear - when you - when you said you - you donned gear, what gear were - did you don when you...

BB: I...

MS: ...said you...

BB: ...put on my rifle, the sling, um, knee pads, and my, uh, electronic ears.

MS: And that's when, before you went into the Mandalay Bay?

BB: Right.

MS: And then, uh, you - you mentioned something about a - a breach bag. You said you guys were going through the breach - breach bag or was that just the SWAT officer?

BB: It was the SWAT officer. I mean, I never went through it. I don't go...

MS: Okay and you know m- do you remember how many people were in your team that you went up the...

BB: Uh...

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MS: .to the room with?

BB: It was, like, six - six - maybe eight. There was a lot behind us. There was a bunch of South Central guys or - or CCAC guys. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know who they were. There was a lot of security. Uh, so probably a total of maybe, like, 15 - 18 maybe, um, behind us. Um, 'cause we had - while they were talking about - before they breached the door we were talking about, um, an exit plan, uh, in case somebody got hit, if - if an officer went down. When we were stacked up by the stairs, um, 'cause we were giving Levi - Levi room to work. We were stacked up on the stairs. We were like, "All right, if - if Levi goes down or, uh, Newt goes down we'll step up, provide cover, you two grab them, go down. You guys down there, uh, get with security, get them down the hallway." 'Cause I told the guy in the elevator to leave the elevator open and, "Don't move. Don't leave. Stay there because if we get a down officer we're gonna have to bring him to this elevator so no matter what, don't leave." So, um, 12 to 16 of us I guess total maybe. I don't...

MS: So there's a lot of people?

BB: Yeah, I mean, I can't consider what, uh, you know, the team at the door was, I mean, there was, like, six of us, maybe eight - six - eight. I don't...

MS: And the - the - the door that was breached, the first door that was breached, was that the main door that you were talking about?

BB: Right.

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MS: Okay and who - who entered it, uh, initially? Do you know who entered, how many people, or you or how many people entered initially?

BB: I can't remember 'cause it blew and then people started moving. Um, I don't remember.

MS: So you didn't enter until, um...

BB: Second breach.

MS: ...the second breach? And then you entered w- in what doors did you enter, the main doors or...

((Crosstalk))

BB: The main door. The main door.

MS: And then you just - you went into the main doors and then you...

BB: Yup, I took, like, five steps in. Yeah, because I knew there to my right and I heard the burst so I figured somebody saw something, saw a threat, addressed it, and then, um, I mean, realistically I, you know, you just go in, you think just in case they need you, someone's down. You know, if you can help in any way, great. They didn't need help. There was nothing to address. So I stood, looked. They said, "All right, blah - blah - blah. Let's - let's get everybody out. Let's secure it." So I backed right out.

MS: Was there a bunch of officers inside the room at the time? D- do you remember?

BB: It was dark and smoky.

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MS: Okay.

BB: I saw Levi, Newt. Those are the only two really that I - I - I looked at their faces.

MS: Okay.

BB: I mean, there was other people in there but honestly I couldn't tell you who they were.

MS: Okay, um, did you ever discharge your firearm?

BB: No.

MS: Um, and, uh, do you have any? Uh, and was your body cam activated?

BB: Yeah.

MS: Yeah? Got any questions?

KP: Yeah, De- uh, Detective Ploense. I got a question. You said when you first got up there you - you posted on the - the door...

BB: Right.

KP: ...while they went in?

BB: After the first breach I posted on the door.

KP: Okay, then you were - so you were still posted, like, at the stairwell door then...

BB: Um...

KP: ...to the...

BB: Yeah.

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KP: ...fire...

BB: I st- the...

KP: ...the fire stairs?

BB: Yeah, I stepped out of the f- of the fire door and took about three steps to my left so I was in the corner so I had a good shot at the - the other door if somebody came out of it.

KP: The, uh...

BB: The suspect's - the door on the right of the suspect's...

KP: Okay,

BB: ...main door.

KP: Is that were the cart was? Was there a cart?

BB: I don't remember a cart.

KP: Okay, so not important. Um...

MS: Did you hear any, um, by the time you got - made it upstairs were there any shots being fired at that time?

BB: When we got up to the...

MS: Yeah, or...

BB: ...floor?

MS: ...did you hear - ever hear any gunshots?

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BB: I didn't hear any gunshots, no.

KP: The whole night?

BB: No.

KP: Okay.

BB: No, actually the - I think it - he was - he was done by the time we got here. I don't - no, I didn't - I didn't hear any.

KP: Okay.

BB: Just people screaming.

KP: Okay.

MS: And then after you and, uh, Officer Thiel - you guys left, did - did you leave the Mandalay Bay or did w...

BB: Yeah.

MS: You said you hooked up with an officer - or SWAT Officer Marks?

BB: No, he was - we passed each other.

MS: Okay.

BB: And we - we've been friends for a long time so we - we talked for a brief minute. I don't even think we really broke stride. We kinda - I recognized him, he recognized me, we yelled kinda, and then passed. You know...

MS: Okay and then where did you go from there?

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BB: Uh, we went back in the elevator, went down to the basement out, hooked up with, um, FD, and, um, and then we went and we cleared and looked for, um, casualties at, uh, Route 91 field - the whole field, um...

MS: And that was you and Office Thiel?

BB: Officer Thiel and, uh, yeah, like, six FD guys.

MS: And you just went to the Route 91 and you were looking through...

BB: Yeah, we went through all of Route 91 which took a couple hours. Um, and then we came back to Mandalay Bay. Um, we were told to come back to Mandalay Bay 'cause at that time we were basically under the control of the fire captain and he was like, "Hey, you guys are with us. You're not leaving us. You're with us. You're assigned to us. Don't leave us." And I was like, "Okay." So we stayed with them, came back to, uh, Mandalay Bay per, uh, FD captain and that's when we had, uh, met up with, uh, all the SWAT teams, uh, FBI, everybody basically. And, uh, that's when SWAT took over and they were like, "All right, you guys are gonna be with these SWAT officers and you're gonna take, uh, the FD." 'Cause FD was like, "We're not leaving these two. The way it works is we're married. Thiel and Bunitsky are - are with us." So SWAT was like, "All right, take two SWAT guys and Bunitsky, Thiel, five, uh, medics. You're gonna clear, uh, the sixth floor." So then we took a couple hours to clear the sixth floor and then - and yeah, and then that was it.

MS: Okay and were you inside the - you said you heard a v- uh, a - a series of three shots or something. Were you inside the room when that happened?

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BB: No - no, I was...

MS: Did you see any officers...

BB: No.

MS: ...any of the officers that...

BB: No, I couldn't tell you who it was. I was watching the door.

MS: Okay.

MR: Real quick, transcripts, this is Mike Ramirez. At any time did you kick in a door?

BB: No.

MR: Did you see, uh, anyone kick in a door?

BB: No.

MR: Okay, that's all I...

MS: I don't have any other questions. Do you have any questions, Detective Ploense?

KP: No - no.

MS: At this time the interview will end. Again the date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1650 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1650 HOURS.

**MS: KP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by M6239S on 10/08/2017**